

Message Text

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17

ACTION NEA-07

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 INR-05 L-01 NSC-05 NSCE-00 CIAE-00

DODE-00 SP-02 IO-03 EB-03 SSM-01 EA-06 EUR-08 ARA-06

AF-04 ACDA-10 /076 W

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R 040355Z MAR 76

FM AMEMBASSY KABUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6485

C O N F I D E N T I A L KABUL 1648

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: AFW

PFOR

SUBJ: CONVERSATION WITH PRESIDENT DAOUD ON INTERNATIONAL ISSUES

REF: A. STATE 47812; B. STATE 50308

1. DURING MY CONVERSATION MARCH 3 WITH PRESIDENT DAOUD HE ASKED ME FOR MY VIEWS ON CURRENT INTERNATIONAL QUESTIONS. THANKS TO THE TIMELY RECEIPT OF REFTELS, SU WAS ABLE TO GIVE HIM A QUICK RUNDOWN ON THE ARAB/ISRAELI QUESTION, CHINA AND BREZHNEV'S FOREIGN POLICY STATEMENT TO THE 25TH CPSU CONGRESS. I ALSO COVERED THE POINT IN REFTEL B CONCERNING THE COLOMBO NON-ALIGNED SUMMIT AND THE PUERTO RICAN ISSUE.

2. DAOUD, INDICATING SOME SKEPTICISM, ASKED IF THE BREACH

BETWEEN THE CPSU AND WESTERN EUROPEAN PARTIES IS STRATEGIC OR TACTICAL. WHILE SAYING THAT ON THE SURFACE IT APPEARS TO ME TO BE AN IDEOLOGICAL ISSUE, WITH THE WESTERN EUROPEAN PARTIES MODIFYING SOME OF THE TRADITIONAL TENETS OF THE IDEOLOGY TO IMPROVE THEIR DOMESTIC POLITICAL SITUATIONN AUT REMAINF TO BE SEEN WHETHER THE BREACH WILL BECTME A REALLY SERIOUS MATTER. WOULD APPRECIATE ANY FURTHER
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THOUGHTS THE DEPARTMENT HAS ON THIS QUESTION WHICH I

COULD RELAY TO DAOUD.

3. DAOUD ALSO ASKED ME ABOUT THE SITUATION IN AFRICA AND I TOLD HIM THAT OUR ADMINISTRATION WILL CONTINUE WHAT IS A VERY DIFFICULT TASK IN AN ELECTION YEAR TO MAINTAIN A BALANCE BETWEEN MAINTAINING OUR STRENGTH VIS-A-VIA THE SOVIET UNION AND AT THE SAME TIME TRYING TO REACH AGREEMENTS ON SUCH ISSUES AS SALT.

4. DAOUD DID NOT ONCE MENTION PAKISTAN DURING THE CONVERSATION, SO NEITHER DID I.

5. DAOUD APPEARED TO BE IN EXCELLENT HEALTH, SETTING TO REST AT LEAST FOR ME SOME OF THE RUMORS TO THE CONTRARY WHICH HAVE RECENTLY BEEN CURRENT IN KABUL.
ELIOT

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NNN

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